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the imperturbable cub, who looked up into his face and said, as he blew a puff of cigarette smoke at him:

"How did you think I got the pictures if I didn't? Want the story for tomorrow morning, or do you prefer standing around and keeping a live reporter from writing it?"

The staff had almost to hold Jameson up as he fell back, completely knocked out by this burst of effrontery. He merely gasped as he handed the camera to a boy and told him to rush it to the photograph room and have the films developed. Then he turned to some of the fellows who were standing about, quite as overwhelmed as their chief.

"I do believe he's got it," he said. "Here, where's Mr. Bangs?"

Bangs was night managing editor. He had already heard the news, and was in the room. When he approached William W., the latter was writing swiftly on his machine, and barely looked up as Bangs said:

"Mr. Billings, is it quite so that you have landed Cyrus K. Cummings?"

Now, to be spoken to by the managing editor is an honor most cubs never attain. Did it faze William W.? Not him! He had never seen Bangs, being on only days. He just looked by the mighty one and called to Jameson:

"Oh, I say, Mr. Jameson, can't you make these butters-in keep out of my way till I'm finished?"

Bangs too fell back.

They watched William W., writing his story. He did it rapidly, and, it must be confessed, not badly. As the first page came from his machine, Jameson grabbed it and looked it over. Then he turned to the rest of the bunch:

"Fellows," said he, "he's the limit in the way of cads, and all that; but we've got to take off our hats to him! He's made good!"

And then the good heartedness of newspaper men showed itself as plainly as I ever saw it. Bass, who had been across the street at dinner, heard the news and came back. He was the first, as William W. finished his story, to walk over to him and say:

"Billings, old man, you're one of us, all right. You succeeded where I fell down, and I want to congratulate you."

William W. looked up at good old Bass in the most supercilious way you could imagine. "Oh," said he, "you're Bass, ain't you? Yes, I made good. Wasn't much, though, when a fellow used a little commonsense."

And then even Bass fell back. But we all stood around and looked at the cub.

"By golly!" was the comment, with varied words. "He's queer, and that's no lie; but he's clever." For we had all read the story, and it was a wonder!

You would have thought, after the rebuffs we had all had from the insufferable little shrimp, that we would have let him alone. Not newspaper men! They are all heart, all appreciation. It's what a man does that

they think about. So, while we wished it had been somebody else who had landed the biggest thing of the year, we walked over to William W., one after the other, and told him we were proud of him. And he—well, he noticed us, that's all I can say.

HIS story was finished, edited, and on the way up stairs, slated for the first page lead, in display type, with an introduction written by Bangs himself. Then Bangs thought of the pictures and called Harry Spear, head of the art department.

"Got a print of those Cumming pictures from the photographers yet?" he asked, and Harry sent for Henry the photographer. The latter came into the room.

He had some still wet prints in his hand. William W. smiled a little more superciliously than ever as Henry walked over to Bangs with them, followed by the rest of us. Bangs grabbed them, and we all clustered about to see them. William W.'s story had described them, and we knew they would be wonders, as wonderful as his story.

"If they've only come out well!" said somebody.

"H'm!" sneered William W. "I know how to use a camera as well as landing Cyrus K. Cummings! Let's see 'em!" He crowded to the table where Bangs stood examining the prints. "Where's my pictures?" he demanded.

Bangs turned to him. "Are these the ones you took?" he asked.

William W. looked at them. "Sure," he said. "Ain't they corks? Took 'em while he talked to me. Why, what's the matter with 'em?"

"Nothing," said Bangs, with a smile. "Oh, nothing!" He turned to Jameson. "Phone to the composing room not to set that story yet." Then he looked at William W. again.

"Nothing's wrong with the pictures," he said. "I congratulate you, my boy, again!"

"Then—what—"

"Only," said Bangs very smoothly, "they don't happen to be pictures of Cyrus K. Cummings. They're his estimable friend, Dr. A. Bird Twombly!"

"And I—"

That was as far as William W. got. He couldn't have got any further, against the roar that went up. It touched him. Its sarcasm reached him. He got "onto" himself, as the saying is, then and there. He blushed. First time I ever saw William W. turn a hair. And then—well, then he started to speak; but what was the use? There was nothing to say. Maybe he recalled all the cockishness of his short career on the paper. Maybe he realized that he couldn't ever live it down. He did the next best thing. He put on his coat—that nice, tan coat. He put on his nice, foolish, little green felt hat, took his cane in his hand, lit a fresh cigarette, and, taking up a magazine from somebody's desk, vanished into the night.

GOING HOARSE ON HICKS

Continued from page 10

lot of rich brokers I wouldn't pick out for assistant office boys on their looks. And Hicks is gettin' more pie faced every day."

WHICH don't mean I suspicioned anything of what was up. Fact is, I'd hardly give him a thought, and hadn't even noticed that he wa'n't makin' his usual trains for the last few days. Then here late one afternoon, when I was fixin' up some accounts at the studio, in drifts this trembly, mud splashed specimen with the dented derby pulled down over his eyes, and shuffles up to where I was sittin' at the desk.

First off I thought it must be some stray panhandler; but after I'd allowed for the heavy bags under the eyes, and the stubby crop of beard, and the sad state of his clothes, I saw who it was.

"Why, it's Hicks!" says I.

"Yes," says he, hoarse and husky, "Hicks!"

"Little the worse for wear, ain't you?" says I.

"I—I'm all in!" says he.

"What was the occasion," says I. "Is it a periodical, or have you been celebratin' somebody's birthday?"

"McCabe," says he, holdin' out a shaky, cigarette stained hand with the fingernails in deep mournin', "d-d-don't ask me!"

"All right, I won't," says I. "But take a chair, Man! Your knees look wobbly. There! Now what was it you came up here for?"

He makes two or three false starts that don't result in any sound; but fin'ly he manages to get it out. "That dog business," he begins. "I—I wanted to say that—that—Oh, I can't, McCabe! See? I've no nerves left."

"You ain't quite in trim for a debate," says I. "But why dig it up now?"

"I don't know," says he. "There are enough worse matters, God knows, that I must leave as they are; but this one has been on my mind all day, and—and— Well, he was vicious, you know—bit a grocer's boy only last week. He'd attacked persons before, too, and—and—"

"Well, what of it?" says I. "You don't suppose I've been goin' around grindin' my teeth about that all this time, do you? Bah! If you must thresh it out again, wait until you're in shape."

"But I can't wait," says he. "This—is this my last chance. There are others who will have cause to think worse of me, I know; but somehow it seemed to me I had to say this to you before—well, before I finished for good."

"Rot!" says I. "You're not goin' to finish now. Go home and buck up. You'll be all right in the mornin'."

"No," says he, "I—I can't go home—ever! All I can do is finish a bad job. Don't try to stop me. You don't know. Don't stop me, will you, McCabe?"

"Not me," says I. "But let's talk it over, calm and quiet, with the high tragedy hints left out. What ails you, anyway? Been on a bat, ain't you?"

"It's worse than that," says Hicks. "I—I'm ruined!"

"Gwan!" says I. "A man in your state ain't no fit judge of whether he's ruined or not. I've heard plenty of this day-after-remorse; but gen'rally it passes off with the headache. So cut it out! Now how long have you been on this souse picnic of yours?"

"I—I began Tuesday," says he.

"Huh!" says I. "Four days of it, eh? And



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